

REMARKS

The Office Action has required restriction of the claims into two groups under 35 U.S.C. §121:

I. Claims 1-50 drawn to compounds of formula (I) (i.e., monocyclic pyridazines) wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independent substituents specified in option (i) and DO NOT represent the limitation of option (ii) (i.e., R⁷ and R⁸ are NOT taken together as -(Cl I₂)₄-), corresponding process of preparation, composition and method of use, classified in class 544, subclass 239.

II. Claims 1-10 and 32-50, drawn to compounds of formula (I) (i.e., phthalazines) wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are taken together as -(CH₂)₄- (i.e., as provided in option (ii) of the definition of terms R⁷ and R⁸), corresponding process of preparation, composition and method of use, classified in class 544, subclass 237.

The application as filed contains 51 claims. The Office Action appears to make note of only 50 claims. Since claim 51 is a process claim dependent on claim 41, Applicants assume that the Office Action intended Group I to refer to claims 1-51 and Group II to refer to claims 1-10 and 32-51. Applicants elect Group I without traverse. Claims 1-51, as amended, remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 32 and 40 are amended herein to cancel non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to reinstate canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional application.

The Office Action further requires under 35 U.S.C. §121 the election of a single disclosed species falling within the elected group. In compliance with the Office Action applicants elect compound I-236 (TABLE I, page 57). Claims 1-4, 7, 10, 11, 18-21, 32-51 read on the elected species.

An election of a groups and species having been made, a search and examination of this application on its merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 28, 2006

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